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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

J Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 MAR 2002

Applicant: Lutz Weber
International Application No.: PCT/EP00/08880
International Filing Date: 11 September 2000
Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR LEVELING OUT
TITER PLATES USED IN SCREENING AND/OR
SYNTHESIS
Agent's Reference No.: FMW-XX-PCT-US
Date: March 8, 2002

BOX PCT
U.S. Receiving Office
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The present invention relates to a screening and/or synthesis device for carrying out at least one basic operation such as adding, releasing, converting, transferring, detecting, on samples that are contained in reaction vessels of a substance support, especially a titer plate, with at least one receiving device that receives the substance support. The invention further relates to a corresponding method. The invention device is provided with a receiving device that contains a leveling out device that at least partially levels out the substance support before and/or while the basic operation is carried out by subjecting the plate to a pressure and/or attractive force towards a planar area of support. Any bending and/or unevenness that is due to the manufacture of the large-surface titer plate that is preferably used for a simultaneous testing in screening and synthesis systems and that has a multitude of reaction vessels is

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compensated or removed across the entire base area or at least in partial areas of the titer plate. The invention device and method improves the functionality, effectiveness and reliability of highly integrated screening and/or synthesis systems since titer plates that are bent due to the manufacture of the plate can be used without problems.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99, applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application:

U.S. DOCUMENTS		
PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR
5,201,348	April 13, 1993	Lurz
5,306,467	April 26, 1994	Douglas-Hamilton et al.
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS		
PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
02092275	April 3, 1990	Japanese Abstract
60007340	January 16, 1985	Japanese Abstract
197 09 136	September 10, 1998	Germany

Copies of the publications are included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of their materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

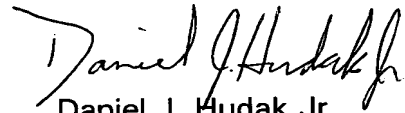
In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above publications, the

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Examiner is requested to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may appear because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copies being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement are the best copies available at this time.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(I 861)

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
 Patent and Trademark

Atty. Docket No.:

Serial No.:

FMW-XX-PCT-US

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant:
Lutz WeberFiling Date:
March 8, 2002

Group:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing date if appropriate
	AA	5,201,348	April 13, 1993	Lurz			
	AB	5,306,467	April 26, 1994	Douglas-Hamilton et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	AL	02092275	April 3, 1990	Japanese Abstract			
	AM	60007340	January 16, 1985	Japanese Abstract			
	AN	197 09 136	September 10, 1998	Germany			
	AO						
	AP						

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.